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WEATHER—CLOUDY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1915.

FIVE CENTS.

## BASIS OF FIGHT ON D. C. FISCAL PLAN REVEALED

Herbert J. Browne Opposes  
Half-and-half Scheme with  
Single-tax Arguments.

### BRIEF OUTLINED HERE

Federal Aid Neither Obliga-  
tory Nor Necessary in Opin-  
ion of Investigator.

### URGES NEW TAXATION SYSTEM

Drastic Reorganization of District As-  
sessor's Office Also Recom-  
mended.

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN.

The Herald publishes, exclusively, herewith a careful summary of the brief filed with the Joint Committee of the Senate and House on the fiscal relations of the Federal government and the District of Columbia by Herbert J. Browne, who directed the investigation and prepared the report of the George committee on taxation and assessment in the District.

Several weeks ago The Herald published the important parts of the brief filed by the citizens' committee, defending the half-and-half plan, so-called. The brief of Mr. Browne represents the best efforts of the opposition to the half-and-half plan, which it frankly repudiates. Although Mr. Browne appears only in behalf of his own views, it may be taken for granted that his brief will meet the views of the organized opposition in the House to the present system of appropriating for District expenses.

Mr. Browne's brief has been prepared with great care. It has been kept from the public with a view to keeping it as confidential matter, pending the meeting of the Congressional committee next Wednesday. It has been copyrighted.

### Basis for Opposition.

Mr. Browne bases his opposition to the half-and-half plan principally on two grounds, first, that it places a premium upon the taxation of real estate improvements rather than ground values, thereby greatly increasing rentals and violating the principle of the single tax which he frankly espouses, and second, that with a fair rate and distribution of taxation on ground values in the District, Federal contribution would be rendered unnecessary because of the large amount of revenue which would be raised—\$12,000,000 annually, according to Mr. Browne's figures.

Mr. Browne denies that the Federal government is under legal or moral obligation to aid in the support of municipal expenses, declaring that the property values, which, if properly assessed, would more than meet the revenue needs of the Capital, are all derived from the Federal government, both through the presence here as the seat of government and the \$5,000,000 Mr. Browne's estimates—disbursed here annually by the government.

The body of the report carries the principal findings of the George report, including the deep seated antagonism to District Assessor Richards. Mr. Browne makes no attempt to go into comparative statistics of per capita wealth or taxation between cities similar to Washington in location and population, a very important part—in fact the most important part—of the brief filed by the citizens' committee.

### Repudiates Federal Obligation.

Following are Mr. Browne's conclusions:

That the Federal government is neither as a matter of principle, policy nor necessity bound to extend direct financial aid to the support of the District government.

That the Federal government in its regular and usual expenditures, other than the District subsidy, provides most liberally the main fund which sustains the great body of taxable values in the District.

That District land values are very lightly taxed.

That the District has ample resources for its own support, in proper taxation of real estate values, utilities, and liquor licenses.

That the theory that the Federal government should pay half the taxes of the District because it owns half the property values is destroyed by the following facts:

First: It does not own half the property values in the District.

Second: It does not own half the streets, and the streets have all been dedicated to public use.

Third: The freedom of use of parks and streets adds enormously to the value of private taxable areas, and that freedom of use destroys the taxable element—private use for profit—even if the gov-

## BUSINESS CONVENTION WILL BE HELD HERE

Chamber of Commerce, of U. S. Will  
Hold Important Meeting Feb-  
ruary 8, 9, and 10.

As a forerunner of what is expected to be the most important gathering in the history of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, comes the announcement that the fourth annual meeting will be held in Washington, D. C., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, February 8, 9, and 10. Owing to the fact that because of the war this is a critical period in world business, it is predicted that there will be an unusually large attendance.

Business men all over the country, it is said, find it next to impossible to forecast from month to month—scarcely even from day to day—the changes which affect business. Under these circumstances, Secretary Goodwin, of the national chamber, believes every business man in the country who is able to do so will want to attend this great business convention, if only for the reason that Congress, which has so much important business legislation ahead of it, will then be in session.

John H. Fahy, of Boston, president of the organization, will preside. Every commercial body affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce of the United States—and there are now nearly 200 of them, representing not only every State in the Union, but Alaska, Porto Rico, Hawaii, and the Philippines—is urged in connection with the meeting to provide for the attendance not only of a full number of delegates to which it is entitled, but of a like number of alternates as well. There will be representatives present from the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris, Rome, Milan, and even as far away as Constantinople.

## POWDER MILL OFFICERS HELD AFTER INQUIRY

Chief Electrician and Assistant of  
Aetna Company Arrested—Blast  
Caused by Electricity.

Kane, Pa., Oct. 16.—Louis Subalski, chief electrician, and A. Fronhot, assistant chief, at the plant of the Aetna Explosive Company, at Emporium, were arrested tonight at Emporium by Sheriff J. S. Judd of Cameron County, and two members of the Pennsylvania State police.

Their arrest was the result of the investigation which followed the recent explosion at the Emporium plant, which caused the death of five men and the serious injury of one. The explosion of 25,000 pounds of smokeless powder, which was ready for shipment, is now thought to have been caused by electricity.

The two men arrested are of German descent. They were rushed to the Elk County jail at Ridgeway in an automobile. It was feared that it would not be safe to keep them in the Cameron County jail. Both refused to talk.

What evidence the company has against the two men could not be learned.

### DIVA'S SON A FUGITIVE.

Paterson Detectives Seek Schumann-Heink with Warrant.

New York, Oct. 16.—Henry Schumann-Heink, son of the noted contralto, is a fugitive from justice. City Detectives Lord and Kemper, of the Paterson police, unsuccessfully endeavored to locate the young man today at his home in Singon, N. J. Young Schumann-Heink was clerk of the Paterson Police Court until he was suspended some time ago, following discovery of an alleged shortage in his accounts.

The detectives wished to serve him with a warrant charging the embezzlement of \$600 from the city. The warrant was issued by Police Chief John Timon following a meeting of police and fire commissioners when Auditor William Surosky's report was read.

In addition to the shortage Surosky declares that there is confusion in the young man's accounts amounting to about \$2,500. The feature of the auditor's report was not made public.

Schumann-Heink served as clerk of the court for eighteen months. He was under \$5,000 bond. He was married a year ago and lived in a home furnished by his mother.

### Machinists Quit Strike.

Federal Labor Conciliators Clifton Reeves and Richard Smythe notified the Department of Labor yesterday afternoon that the strike of 500 machinists and helpers at the Hendon Manufacturing Company's plant at Torrington, Conn., was settled. The men will return to work Monday.

## No "Fat of Land" on Menu of War Captives

London, Oct. 16.—Letters from British prisoners of war which have been smuggled out of Germany, state that conditions in some of the prison camps have become extremely bad.

According to one prisoner, his daily rations consisted of the following: Coffee made of burned barley; bread composed chiefly of potato peelings; soup compounded of potato water, cabbage, chestnuts, barley, and a small piece of sausage.

Prisoners who are working in the fields and upon the roads are compelled to toil sixteen hours at a stretch.

## SEEKS AID OF BUSINESS MEN

Wilson Will Appeal to Em-  
ployers in Behalf of Army  
Program.

### STRONG POPULAR SUPPORT AIM OF ADMINISTRATION

Men of Industry Will Be Asked to  
Back Scheme for Reserve  
Force of 800,000.

The administration will go before the country immediately in support of its program for national defense. It was made clear here yesterday that the President and his advisers are counting largely on securing strong popular support for their proposals for the army and the navy before presenting them to Congress.

The first step will probably be the issuance of a statement by President Wilson outlining in general his policy with regard to national defense. This will be followed immediately by complete statements of the administration's program for the navy and for the military establishment. It is expected that by the middle of next week the full details of both programs will be before the public.

### Popular Support Sought.

It is the present intention of the administration leaders to follow up these announcements with further activities calculated to enlist popular support for the national defense program prior to its presentation to Congress. President Wilson is to address the Manhattan Club, in New York, on the subject of the national defense within the next three weeks. Secretary of War Garrison plans to give public expression to his views regarding the military establishment at an early date, and it is understood that Secretary of the Navy Daniels will follow his example.

Mr. Garrison's plans for the army are regarded as most needing the fullest explanation to the public in advance of the assembly of Congress because they are novel novel than the program for the navy. Some of Mr. Garrison's proposals regarding the regular army are considered radical, in view of the extreme conservatism of former years, while his plan for creating a Federal volunteer force, which will in six years have a total strength of 800,000 men, is an entirely new thing in American military history. It is felt by administration leaders that advantage of every opportunity must be taken, and the most made of the present state of the public mind, to press home the necessity for action of this sort in order that Congress may be convinced that the country is agreed to the new proposal.

### Young Men's Reserve Force.

It was learned yesterday that the co-operation of business men, particularly the employers of labor, is to be particularly sought by the administration in support of the Garrison scheme for building up this reserve force of 800,000 young men. It will be represented to the men now in control of American industry and commerce that the government is not asking military service of them, as it is looking to the young men, and also because it considers the former more valuable to the country where they are now. It will ask, however, that they do everything they can to make it possible for young men in their establishments to enter the proposed adjutant to the army without suffering the penalty of loss of their positions. Mr. Garrison is convinced that co-operation of the business men of the country in this way will go far toward assuring the success of his plan.

Without any solicitation from the War Department, many pledges of this sort of support have already been received by Mr. Garrison. Since the first disclosure of the nature of Mr. Garrison's proposed military policy, he has received many letters, telegrams, and personal calls, all assuring him of hearty co-operation.

### Opposition in Congress.

Opposition is expected to the Garrison plan in Congress. Officials believe, however, that in the next two months they can demonstrate the political expediency of the administration program, even if failing to convince some of its opponents on the merits of the proposals. Those who have canvassed the situation throughout the country most thoroughly are absolutely satisfied that the majority of the public, in most sections, is looking to the government at Washington to provide for the betterment of the national defenses. Consequently, it is hoped that if other arguments fall with opposition Congressmen, that they may be brought to see the desirability of taking the sort of action proposed, if for no other reason than strengthening the chances of the Democratic party for success at the polls in 1916.

The opposition to the navy program is not feared so much as that which is expected to develop against the army plan. The navy program involves nothing radical, though it does provide for somewhat larger expenditures for new construction and munitions. The building program is still regarded as conservative, however, and it is believed that the administration can count on all the support it had for its program of last year and more besides.

\$1.00 to Frederick, Antietam, and Hagerstown and Return  
Baltimore and Ohio, Sunday, October 24, from Union Station 8.00 a. m. Returning same day.—Adv.

## Fourth White House Engagement Of Wilson Regime Announced

Miss Isabella C. Hagner, Social Secretary, Will Become Wife  
of Norman L. Hays, Wealthy Baltimore Man—Gossip  
Easy with Fifth Romance.

The White House wooing in a space. This time Miss Isabella C. Hagner, social secretary at the White House, is the object of Cupid's dart. Her betrothal to Norman L. Hays, of Baltimore, was announced yesterday by Dr. and Mrs. Hays.

This is the fourth engagement that has been announced in connection with the White House since the Wilson administration began. First came the marriage of Miss Jessie Wilson to Francis Bowes Sayre; then the wedding of Miss Eleanor Wilson to Secretary McAdoo, followed by the announcement of the President's engagement to Mrs. Galt, and now the engagement of the White House social secretary to Mr. Hays.

There are rumors that another White House engagement may be announced before long. Dr. Cary T. Grayson, the President's physician, is likely to be the next one in the White House circle who will take the step.

The Hagner-Hays wedding will be a very small and simple one, Dr. Hagner's home, or in St. John's Church.

## Wilson Scored In Editorial

Recognition of Carranza In-  
sult to Catholics, Church  
Paper Declares.

New Orleans, Oct. 16.—An editorial which savagely attacks President Wilson for his policy with regard to Carranza appears in today's issue of the Morning Star, "the official Catholic journal of the diocese of Savannah." The Star is regarded, as well as the official mouthpiece of Catholic clergy throughout the South.

The editorial reads in part: "Venustiano Carranza, the bandit, the cut-throat, the outlaw, the avowed persecutor of the Catholic Church, the robber, and despoiler of her sanctuaries, schools, convents, and hospitals, the murderer of priests, the leader of vandals, the plunderer of the property of the Church, the persecutor of the innocent, the defender of the wicked, the enemy of the people, the enemy of the Church, the enemy of the South." The editorial goes on to say that Carranza's name should be struck from the list of recognized leaders of the United States.

"Mr. Wilson's recognition of Carranza, the avowed enemy of the Catholic Church, is an insult to the Catholics of this country. It is a direct challenge to them, and we hope that not only Catholics, but every true lover of religious freedom, for which the glorious flag of our country stands, will give him such an open answer at the polls as will prove to him that no President of the United States can so flagrantly ignore the lawful and respectful request of 16,000,000 fellow-citizens without paying the penalty."

"This is the only way open to Catholics in which they can take up the gauntlet thrown down by the President of the United States. It is the only way in which all true lovers of religious freedom, irrespective of creed, can show to the administration at Washington how they feel and are determined to uphold this fundamental principle of the American Constitution."

### MOVIES BURN; THREE GIRLS DIE.

Fumes from Blazing Films Make  
Rescue Impossible.

Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 16.—Three girls were burned to death and eight persons seriously injured in fire that destroyed the building of the Mutual Film Company on Luckie street this afternoon.

When the fireman arrived the entire second story of the building, where hundreds of reels of films were stored, was ablaze and the acid fumes made immediate rescue work impossible.

"Sports" with \$2 See Game Anyway.  
St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 16.—A freight train arriving here today brought 400 American School of Osteopathy football players who had traveled from Kirksville, Mo. They did not want to spend the \$4.00 passenger fare to come to St. Louis to see their school eleven line up against Christian Brothers College, so a freight train was chartered and each player was taxed \$2 for the round trip.

### Courts to Get Ballot Fight.

Charleston, S. C., Oct. 16.—The city Democratic executive committee this afternoon voted to throw out box No. 2 of the Tenth ward, which left T. T. Hyde with a majority of 109 votes over Mayor Grace. The fight probably will be taken to the courts. Militiamen are still on guard about the committee building.

### Allies to Break with Greece?

Berlin, Oct. 16.—An Athens dispatch to the Cologne Gazette states that the Russian and Italian ministers to Greece are preparing to leave.

## FOOD PRICES CHEAPER HERE

Lowest Since 1904, Except-  
ing Figures on Meats, Says  
Official.

### JOHN H. SHERMAN PLANS TO CHECK SOARING TENDENCY

In Report, Recommends Bureau to  
Furnish Market In-  
formation.

Food prices, except those charged for meats, are lower in Washington than at any previous time since 1904, according to Superintendent John H. Sherman of the Department of Weights, Measures and Markets, who yesterday filed with the District Commissioners his report for the past year. He lauds dealers in the Capital in the statement that their animosity and opposition to governmental authority has disappeared, so long as this authority is fairly, impartially and courteously exercised.

"The basic tendency of food prices has been upward since 1904, and there is no ground for hope that this tendency can be reversed," says Mr. Sherman. "What is badly needed is comprehensive, constructive work along practical lines to keep prices from going higher."

That the farmer has justified his position in the controversy in which the American public sought to make him the "scape-goat" for the increasing living cost, is one of Mr. Sherman's conclusions. The farmer has shown that where the blame belongs to him it can be corrected by having demonstrated to him where the trouble lies.

### Wants Information Bureau.

Superintendent Sherman says the District should maintain an agency whereby the public may be kept accurately and promptly informed as to the true state of the market for foodstuffs, the supply on the market, the prospect for incoming supply, the true prices obtaining, and the probable course of prices for two days ahead.

He pleads the necessity of moving the retail and wholesale houses of the city to points nearer the wharves and railway terminals, stipulating that by doing this the cost will be lessened by the reduction of drayage.

Pointing out that intermittent huckstering in given territories injures both trade and the temper of the housewife, Mr. Sherman asks that his department be given control of the licensing of these salesmen, so that it can control the activities of the hucksters, forcing them to keep within their own territory and make regular visits. The report says:

"The individual huckster should not be restricted in any way in his choice of routes or his determination of the frequency of his visits, but he should be required to make these regular, and this office should be constantly informed of the approximate whereabouts of every huckster, just as it keeps record of and regularly inspects the store of every grocer."

In the operation of the municipal retail markets, says Mr. Sherman, a small excess of profit to the treasury is annually shown, due to the necessity of setting rentals at even figures when an exact apportionment would result in setting the rentals at odd or fractional amounts. In this way, with a state of active competition existing between standholders, the lowest possible sales prices consistent with the state of supply are insured the public.

### Equipment Obsolete.

Privately owned markets are gladly permitted to be operated so long as they serve their sections well and maintain a healthy state of competition among their stand holders.

Supt. Sherman says the inspection force in the division of weights and measures is inadequate; in fact, that it has remained at the same status for the past fourteen years while the city has been growing rapidly.

"Although required by law to do so," he says, "we afford no inspection service for, or regulation of, druggists' scales, jewelers' scales, millers' scales, plumbers' supplies, building materials, druggists' and chemists' measuring flasks, etc."

"That his equipment is obsolete and inadequate is the claim of the superintendent, who also states that the dealers co-operate with the department in every way possible. He asks for better salaries for the employees, who, according to the superintendent, stay on the job because they are loyal and not because they are able to save anything."

### SIR LIONEL CARDEN DIES.

Former British Minister to Mexico Succumbs in London.  
London, Oct. 16.—Sir Lionel Carden, British Minister to Brazil, who was relieved as British Minister to Mexico in August, 1914, following criticisms of President Wilson, died in London today. Carden was a fervent supporter of Huerta and urged that Huerta be recognized by the United States. In dispatches to the British government he discredited President Wilson's policy and said that if conditions were to continue, intervention by the United States in Mexico was inevitable.

He was 51 years old. While secretary to the British consulate at Havana Sir Lionel married Miss Anne Leffer, daughter of John Leffer, of New York City.

New No. 21 to Asheville.  
"Land of the Sky" leaves Washington 7 p. m. daily, effective Oct. 24. Eat dinner on the diner. Southern Railway. Consult Agents 105 15th, 211 G Sts. N. W.—Adv.

## REALTY BROKER DROPS DEAD CRANKING AUTO

Alexander J. Schwartz, 34, Stricken  
with Acute Heart Trouble  
While on Street.

Alexander J. Schwartz, prominent realty dealer at 1229 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, dropped dead while cranking his automobile at Seventh street and New York avenue northwest last night. Acute heart trouble was given as the cause of death by Emergency Hospital physicians and Coroner Nevitt.

Mr. Schwartz was accompanied by J. R. Flynn, of 623 Sixth street northwest, and W. R. Nagel, 915 Twentieth street northwest. At 10 o'clock they went to his automobile. Mr. Schwartz collapsed while cranking the machine. He was dead when Emergency Hospital physicians reached him. An examination was made by Coroner J. Ramsey Nevitt and a certificate of death from acute heart trouble was returned.

Mr. Schwartz was 34 years old and lived at 149 Girard street northwest. He is survived by his wife.

## GIRLS BRING ORANGE BLOOMS TO PRESIDENT

California Ransacked for Emblematic  
Blossoms to Accompany "Bid"  
to "Frisco Fair."

San Francisco, Oct. 16.—Real California orange blossoms, fragrant and very white, and rarer now in Washington than a day in June, will be presented to President Wilson as a tribute from the State by California's bevy of school girls now speeding to the National Capital with a monster appeal of 200,000 names inviting the President to visit the Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

The party is now eastward bound on the Overland limited and will arrive in Chicago at 9:30 Monday morning and in Washington Tuesday morning. They will meet the President Wednesday.

The whole State of California was ransacked for the choicest orange buds obtainable, this being a season of the year when orange blossoms are scarce. The bunch selected as the finest came from Oroville, which is the furthest northern spot on the face of the globe where oranges are grown commercially. They were taken from a "Lady Washington," which will bear fruit before Thanksgiving, the earliest in California.

## McREYNOLDS TO WED, UNCONFIRMED REPORT

Supreme Court Justice Will Marry  
Former Washington Woman, Says  
Colorado Springs Dispatch.

Philadelphia, Oct. 16.—Mrs. Camilla Hare Lippincott, divorced wife of Jay B. Lippincott, son of Mrs. Craig Lippincott of this city, is to marry Justice James B. McReynolds, of the Supreme Court of the United States, according to a dispatch from Colorado Springs, where she has made her home since her separation.

Mr. Lippincott was married for the second time on September 16 last, his bride being Mrs. L. B. Huntington, New York, divorced wife of E. Irving Huntington, a grandson of Daniel Huntington.

The report is denied by friends of Justice McReynolds, who is the only bachelor member of the Supreme Court. The Justice himself has refused to either confirm or deny the rumor.

Before her marriage to Mr. Lippincott, Mrs. Lippincott was Miss Camilla Hart, of Washington, D. C.

### POLICEMAN SHOT BY NEGRO.

Maryland Poses Search Woods After  
Escape of Murderer.

Baltimore, Md., Oct. 16.—A drink crazed negro, known as Shorty Martin, shot and killed Policeman John E. Miller, of Anne Arundel County, when the officer attempted to place him under arrest late last night at Glenburnie.

The negro was flourishing his revolver when ordered to desist by the policeman and then the latter proceeded to place him under arrest. Instead of yielding, the negro turned on the officer who drew his revolver. They fired simultaneously but the black's aim proved true and the policeman dropped. While Miller lay on the ground Martin sent two more bullets through his heart. He then dashed into the woods.

All day posers have been beating the bushes in search of the murderer.

### BENZOL BURSTS; ONE KILLED.

Alabama Company at Work on Large  
War Order for Allies.

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 15.—One is known to be dead and several injured in a gas explosion at the new \$500,000 benzol plant of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, at Fairfield, a suburb, tonight. The plant recently began work on a large war order and fifty guards have been maintained about the place as a precaution against German spies, but the officials declare the explosion was entirely accidental. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

### Five German Transports Sunk by British Subs

London, Oct. 17.—Five German transports have been sunk by British submarines operating in the Baltic, according to an official statement issued in Petrograd last evening.

### Looping Loop, Airman Killed.

Buenos Ayres, Oct. 15.—While attempting to loop-the-loop in an aeroplane here today, Francisco Beltrame fell to the ground and was instantly killed.

## FRENCH WREST MOUNTAIN PEAK FROM GERMANS

Hartmannsweiler-Kopf Is Re-  
taken and Fort  
Captured.

### BULGARS SWARM BORDER

Whole of the Serbian Line  
Crossed by Enemy, Sofia  
Report.

### NISH-DANUBE RAILWAY TAKEN

Both Berlin and Vienna Report Prog-  
ress in Invasion—Foe Forty  
Miles from Nish.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Athens, Oct. 17.—Franco-British troops left Saloniki on Saturday morning for the Serbian frontier. The railway administration at Saloniki was ordered to prepare seven trains for the transport of troops to Ghevgheli.

London, Oct. 15.—French Alpine troops, fighting among the clouds, today recaptured the peak of Hartmannsweilerkopf, taken by the Germans yesterday. Pressing on after expelling the Germans from the trenches on the summit, the French also took a small fort occupied by German troops. In regaining their lost positions, the Paris report states fifty Germans were made prisoners. Berlin's report of yesterday's captures states that five French officers and 226 men were taken, together with six machine guns and three mine throwers.

German artillery pressure is still being exerted with great energy against the entire southern sweep of the line occupied by the French. The Paris report of this afternoon confined its claims almost exclusively to repulse of German attacks and interruption of German communications.

The greatest efforts of the Germans were made in Lorraine, where the Germans assailed the trenches recently lost to the French north of Reillon, and in the Vosges, against the line between Le Ling and Schramm. Here the Berlin report also chronicles the repulse of a French attack.

### Sweep Serbian Line.

In Artois, in the Hache wood and on the western slopes of Souchez valley, fresh German attacks were made against the extreme left of the French army, while in Champagne further bombardment by German batteries of the rear of the French line is reported. French aeroplanes today bombarded the Sablon railway station at Metz. Besides exploding bombs in the station itself, the aviators were able to hit a moving train, which was brought to a stop by the rain of projectiles.

The Central News has received the following Sofia dispatch by way of Amsterdam: "The Bulgarians have crossed the Serbian frontier over the entire line. The Nish-Danube Railway, running through the Timok Valley, is no longer in Serbian power."

### Force Frontier Passes.

A Berlin dispatch says: "The Timok Valley, with the Nish-Danube Railway, is no more in the Serbian possession. Serbian connection with Russia is thus severed." The Berlin official statement today announced that "The Bulgarians have forced the frontier passes between Negotin and Strumika."

Negotin is on the Danube near its junction with the Timok, and apparently it was this force that took possession of the railway.

The Nish-Danube Railway runs from the Roumanian front to the war capital of Serbia. Bulgarian control of this railway would paralyze any attempt on Roumania's part to assist Serbia should the former decide to depart from her neutrality. More important still, it will cut off the Russian line of aid to the Serbian forces, should an attempt be made to send Russian troops through Roumania.

### Forty Miles from Nish.

Forty thousand Bulgarian troops are also reported to have begun an attack on the Nish-Saloniki Railway in the vicinity of the Itarda bridge and Valendow and Doiran. All these points are within a few miles of the Greek frontier. An Exchange dispatch from Athens, coming by way of Zurich, tonight said the Bulgarians had been defeated in this fighting.

The capture or destruction of this road would prevent the entire supply from forwarding troops and supplies from Greece to the assistance of the Serbians. With the control of the Nish-Danube and the Nish-Saloniki railroads, the isolation of Serbia would be complete, and its subjugation by the Teuton forces be as complete as that of Belgium.

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Buenos Ayres, Oct. 15.—While attempting to loop-the-loop in an aeroplane here today, Francisco Beltrame fell to the ground and was instantly killed.